[23rd January 1964

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are these houses allotted by the Rent Controller or do owners of the houses have freedom to give them to whomsoever they like?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The usual law will apply to that, that is, the first letting will be by themselves; thereafter it wil be by the Accommodation Controller.

State Housing Board

* 37 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a retired I.A.S. Officer has been re-employed as Chairman of the Madras State Housing Board; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The officer was re-employed in view of his past experience in the fields of Local Administration and Housing and with a view to complete expeditiously the items of work already taken up.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Is there no other officer now serving the Government to serve in that post?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In our opinion, the officer is very competent and his services were required.

Drugs

* 38 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the procedure adopted for the procurement of drugs for the Government hospitals and dispensaries?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : The requirements of drugs, except antibiotics, sera and vaccines and quinine for the Government hospitals and dispensaries are obtained on indent from the Medical Stores Depot, Madras. Antibiotics, sera and vaccines and quinine are obtained from Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, the King Institute, Guindy, and the Central Jail, Coimbatore, respectively. Such of the drugs as could not be supplied immediately by the Medical Stores Depot, etc., are locally purchased under proper sanction after calling for competitive quotations in the open market.

Medical Officers

* 39 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state--

(a) whether any medical officers in Government service have taken a second spouse while the first spouse is alive; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against them?